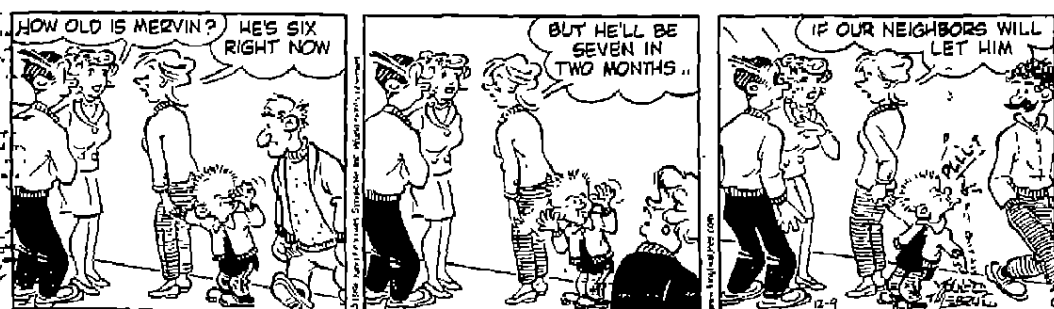
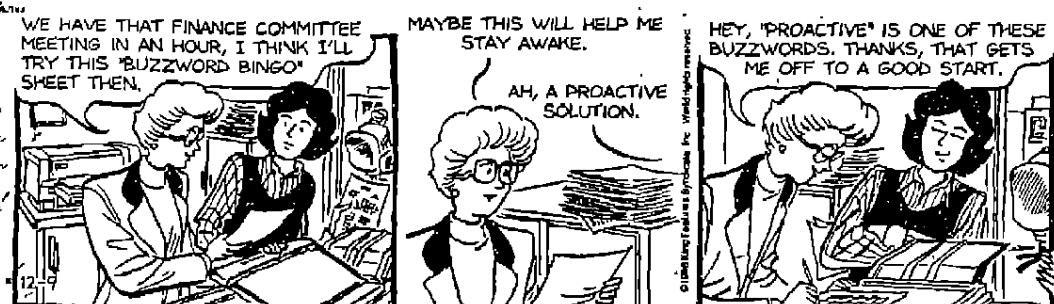


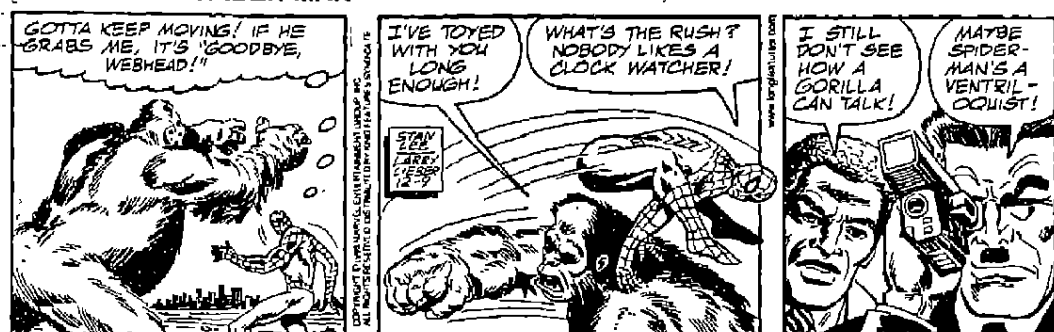
BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



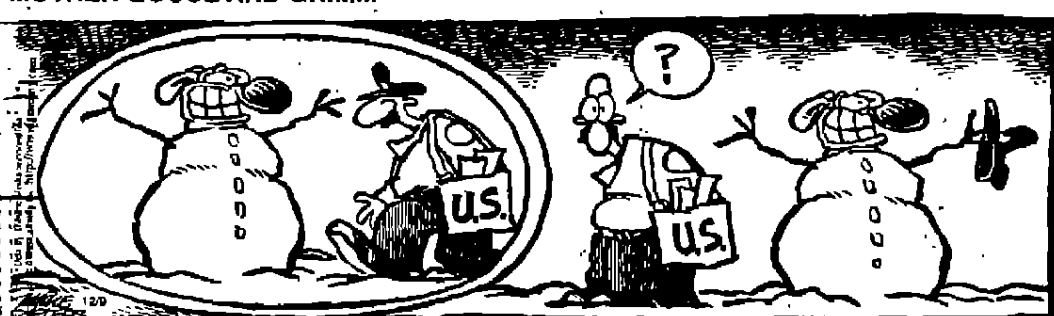
ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



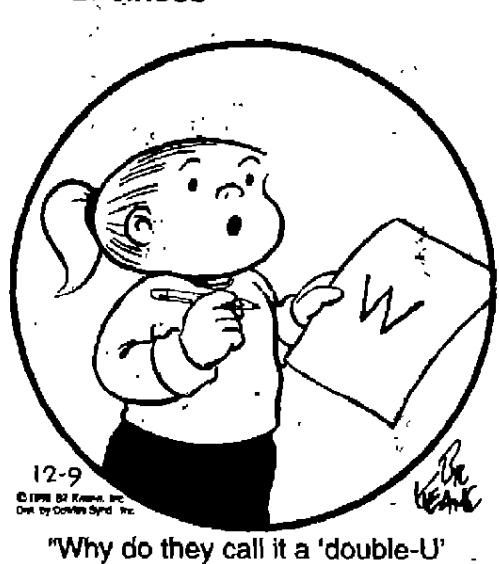
DILBERT



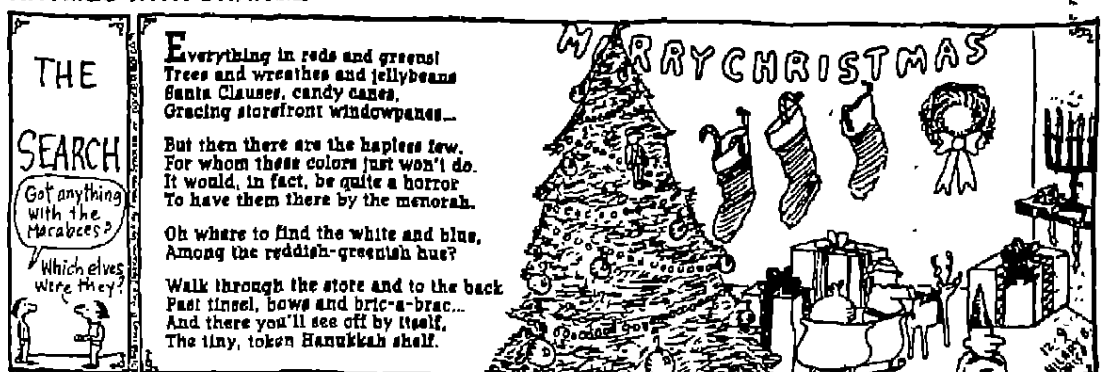
DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Actor Douglas Fairbanks Jr. is 89. Actor Kirk Douglas is 82. Actress Dina Merrill is 73. Actor Dick Van Patten is 70. Actor-writer Buck Henry is 68. Talk-show host Mervyn Downey Jr. is 65. Actress Dame Judi Dench is 64. Actor Beau Bridges is 57. Football Hall-of-Famer Dick Butkus is 56. Actor John Malkovich is 45. Singer Donny Osmond is 41. Rock musician Nick Seymour (Crowded House) is 40.

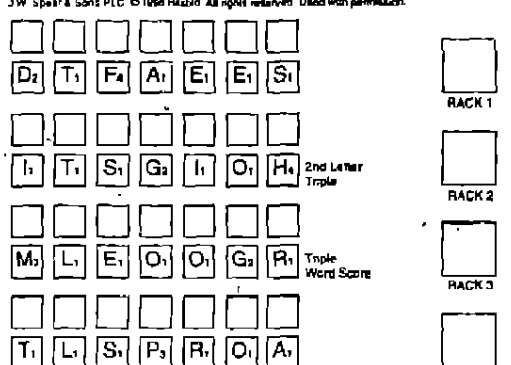
I NEED HELP



The 12-Step Aerobics Program.

SCRABBLE

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PAR SCORE 140-150

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7 letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 12-10-98 © 1998 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

Things We Look Through

PLIGDBSYWSTRPMK
IFDBYEWUSEEQOMK
IFDBSZPGPPXLWUS
SQTSONOOOLSIHE
FDAHCGCCCAKYWFN
VLTSGSSQPSONLWI
GKALEIDOSCOPEOZ
KIELRHSEYEBRFD
ESESESNEELNCCNG
BTPZYWVUUKSAMIA
SELOHTROPGRQPMW

Tuesday's unlisted clue: ARROW
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: SPECTACLES

Books	Gun sight	Mask	Porthole
Eyes	Kaleidoscope	Microscope	Telescope
Files	Lenses	Panels	Window
Goggles	Magazines	Periscope	

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For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You may not feel like you're accomplishing much, but tiny details make a great deal of difference to the bigger picture.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Success follows you wherever you go.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your domestic environment has been neglected, and you must turn your attention toward it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Pay specific attention to your diet; try to keep your food intake light.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You have forgotten to pressure an important person, and this oversight works in your favor!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You are the conduit for many different interactions and exchanges.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Issues are unclear, images are out of focus and you do not want to fix things.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Applied knowledge and group participation solve a problem. You are the hero of the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Steer clear of situations where you'll be forced to choose sides.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) All the research you have done can now be organized.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Temptation to get involved in other people's affairs distracts you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Constructive criticism is your forte at this time.

ACES

By Bobby Wolff

West led the heart tray to East's king, and South refused the trick. East returned the deuce, and South's 10 went to West's jack. Another low heart cleared the suit, and South had to tackle the minor suits. He led a club and routinely passed it to East's queen. East returned his last heart to West's queen, and West's diamond ace produced the setting trick. The success of South's plan depended on clubs being 3-2, and East holding only three hearts plus the diamond ace. Was that a realistic hope? Not after the defenders played the hearts as they did. When East won his heart king and returned the deuce, he promised either two hearts or four hearts. With three, he would have returned his middle card. Therefore, unless the queen and jack of clubs dropped doubleton, conceding a club could not win. The defenders would win three hearts, a club and a diamond, regardless of who had the diamond ace. The only hope was for East to hold the diamond jack. At trick four, South should lead a diamond to dummy's queen and, when it wins, lead a diamond back to finesse against East's jack. West wins his ace and cashes a heart, but the defense wins only four tricks.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ K J 7	♠ 6 5 2	♠ A 10 4	♠ 9 8 2
♥ 7 6	♥ Q 8 3	♥ K 10 7	♥ Q 2
♦ Q 8 3	♦ A 10 7 6 5	♦ A Q 10 9	♦ A 10 4
♣ A 10 7 6 5	♣ K 9 8 2	♣ K 10 7	♣ K 9 8

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South
The bidding:
South West North East
1NT Pass 3NT All pass
Opening lead: Heart tray

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 1028

ACROSS

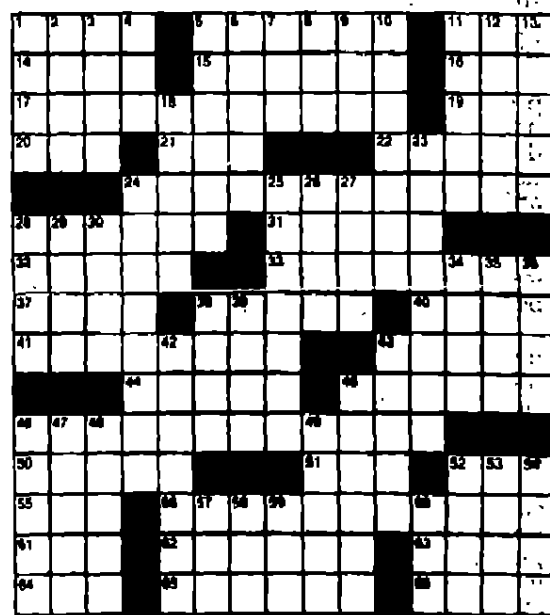
- 1 Carry on
- 9 Cut
- 11 Restorationist's skill, for short
- 14 Ink's color, to Shakespeare
- 15 Madame's eager reply
- 18 Brazilian vacation destination
- 17 Pest control devices
- 19 Midwest land; Abbr.
- 20 Oolong, for one
- 21 Prefix with laryngology
- 22 Floor
- 24 "Urban Cowboy" star, 1980
- 28 Medical vial
- 31 Chatter
- 32 Spacious
- 33 Traditional
- 37 Cosby's "I Spy" co-star
- 38 Strike site
- 40 Fibster
- 41 Having honest emotion
- 43 Fondly remembered "S.N.L." name
- 44 Midwest hub
- 46 Hail
- 48 Improperly altered
- 50 Ram in the sky
- 51 Terre Haute sch.
- 52 Mineral spring
- 55 Plague
- 56 Theme of this puzzle
- 61 Relative of a thea
- 62 Camden Yards player
- 63 "Close"
- 64 Puff Daddy's music
- 66 Strange one
- 68 TV award

DOWN

- 1 Fabric
- 2 Up to the task
- 3 "Naked Maja" artist
- 4 Dash-dot, dash-dot, dash-dot
- 5 Hate
- 6 — a limb
- 7 Plum's center
- 8 "The Bells" writer
- 9 Land east of the Atl.
- 10 Repudiate
- 11 Court event
- 12 Symphonic poem creator
- 13 Jazz pianist Chick
- 18 "Bully" (1985 hit)
- 23 Obelisk, say
- 24 Double Dutch equipment
- 25 Sang
- 26 Act as an arbiter

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ALAE - ILSA - CASH
GLENN - DOWN - ARTE
MEANT - EXIT - REAL
SCHIRRA - SHEPARD
EEE - SHERE
MAT - ETNA - MINDED
OSMA - AILS - ETUDE
THEMERCURYSEVEN
HOTEL - ETTA - RENT
STATIC - EASE - TSE
HOOKS - IDA
SLAYTON - GRISSOM
WIPS - PALE - SITUP
EAST - EVEN - ODORS
ARES - RENE - NEWS



Puzzle by Ann Arbuckle

- 27 Gump of the comics
- 28 Chief: Prefix
- 29 Pout
- 30 Actress Negri
- 34 Rub the wrong way
- 35 Youngsters
- 36 "Doggone it!"
- 38 Many miles away
- 39 Play the siren
- 42 It must go on
- 43 Outfit
- 45 "Fantasia" creator
- 46 Bring to a point
- 47 Bouquet
- 48 Checkroom problem
- 49 Manipulate
- 52 Did the butterfly, e.g.
- 53 Make waves?
- 54 Host
- 57 Spleen
- 58 Early sixth-century date
- 59 Côte—France
- 60 Have to pay back

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch tone phone 1-900-420-5656 (95¢ per minute).
Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords for the last 50 years 1-888-7-ACROSS